

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

BATES et al

Atty. Ref.: 608-334

Serial No. Unassigned

Group:

Filed: March 7, 2002

Examiner:

For: COATED PRODUCTS AND USE THEREOF IN OIL FIELDS

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March 7, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please cancel all of the claims in this application, namely Claims 1-41, and replace by the following new claims:

IN THE CLAIMS:

--42. (New) A process for the manufacture of particles of an oil field production chemical, wherein a solid particulate oil field production chemical is comminuted in the presence of a dispersion of a dispersing agent in an inert oil to cause the dispersing agent to adhere to at least part of the surface of the particle to form a coating on said particle, the weight of coating to said particles being 0.1-10%.

43. (New) A process as claimed in Claim 42 wherein the dispersing agent adheres to part of the surface of the particle to form a discontinuous coating.

44. (New) A process as claimed in claim 42 wherein the dispersing agent is selected from

- a) a comb type polymer;
- b) a polymer of an oligomeric polyacid polyester or amine derivative thereof;
- c) a surfactant; and
- d) a polymer comprising a hydrocarbon backbone with at least one pendant oxygen and/or nitrogen containing polar group.

45. (New) A process as claimed in claim 44 wherein the surfactant is a polymeric or monomeric alkoxylated alcohol or phenol.

46. (New) A process as claimed in 44 wherein the surfactant is a polymeric ether.

47. (New) A process as claimed in claim 44 wherein the polymer comprising a hydrocarbon backbone with at least one pendant oxygen and/or

nitrogen containing polar group is an aliphatic (N-heterocyclic) carbonyl polymer.

48. (New) A process as claimed in claim 47 wherein the aliphatic (N-heterocyclic)carbonyl polymer is an alkylated derivative of polyvinylpyrrolidone.

49. (New) A process as claimed in claim 44 wherein the coating comprises a fatty acid polyamine condensate.

50. (New) A process as claimed in claim 42 wherein the oil field production chemical is a scale inhibitor, a corrosion inhibitor, an asphaltene inhibitor, a wax inhibitor or a demulsifier.

51. (New) A process as claimed in claim 50 wherein the scale inhibitor is a polymeric compound.

52. (New) A process as claimed in claim 51 wherein the polymeric compound is a polyvinyl sulphonic acid, a poly(meth)acrylic acid or a copolymer of a vinylsulphonic acid and a (meth)acrylic acid or an alkali metal salt thereof.

53. (New) A process as claimed in claim 42 wherein the coated particles have an average particle size of less than 20 microns.

54. (New) A process as claimed in claim 53 wherein the coated particles have an average particle size of between 0.4 and 10 microns.

55. (New) A process as claimed in claim 54 wherein the coated particles have an average particle size of between 1 and 10 microns.

56. (New) A process as claimed in claim 55 wherein the coated particles have an average particle size of between 1 and 3 microns.

57. (New) A process as claimed in claim 42 wherein the coated particles have particle size of 100% less than 10 microns.

58. (New) A process as claimed in claim 57 wherein the coated particles have a particle size of 100% less than 5 microns.--

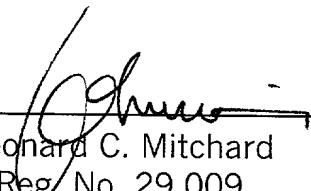
REMARKS

New Claims 42-58 are presented. No new matter is entered.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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